THE APPROPRIATE NAME IN *THE METAMORPHOSES* OF APULEIUS

BY
HARRIS LIVINGSTON RUSSELL
A.B., University of Oklahoma, 1937
A.M., University of Oklahoma, 1939

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS
SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
CLASSICS IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, 1942

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This study is the fifth of a series of Illinois dissertations devoted to a consideration of the various aspects of the appropriate name and its use by the ancient Greeks and Romans. The first of these was published by J. C. Austin in 1922 (*The Significant Name in Terence,* University of Illinois Studies in Language and Literature, vol. 7, no. 4). Dr. Austin proved that ancient critics took it for granted that the names in comedy should be appropriate, and found that Terence consistently observed the rule of the significant name.

In 1933 S. W. Paine (*Aspects of the Appropriate Name in Greek*), in an examination of 1500 Greek names of persons historically prominent, found 18.9% to be appropriate, thus demonstrating the fallacy of rejecting names as unhistorical merely because they are apropos.

In 1938 Miss G. M. Goode (Mrs. J. H. Young) (*The Appriate Name in Petronius*) showed that all the names in Petronius bore proper type significance, and possessed, for the most part, an appropriateness to the individual.

In 1939 W. M. Seaman (*The Appropriate Name in Plautus*) in an examination of six plays of Plautus (*Amphitruo, Asinaria, Aulularia, Bacchides, Captivi, Casina*) found the great majority of names primarily descriptive of types, rather than of individuals, although Plautus carefully observed the convention of assigning appropriate names to his *personae.*

The present study examines the *Metamorphoses* of Apuleius, following the procedure established by Drs. Austin, Paine, Goode, and Seaman. Early references to this author's use of appropriate names were made by F. Oudendorp (*Appuleii Metamorphoseon Libri XI,* Leyden 1786, p. 123) and by O. Erdmann ("De L. Apuleii Madaurensis Elocutione," *Programm des Gymnasiums zu Stendal,* 1864, p. 16). Other commentators on Apuleius had never given more than incidental attention to his use of names in the *Metamorphoses* until R.

Helm in 1910 published his edition of the *Florida*. In the preface to this text Helm (p. xxxiii) remarked upon the use of the appropriate name by Apuleius through nearly all the books of the *Metamorphoses,* and even questioned the authenticity of a phrase in the text calling attention to the appropriate etymology of the name Thrasyllus, on the ground that such an explanation was superfluous.

The need for a special study of the appropriate name in the *Metamorphoses* of Apuleius was first pointed out by Miss Blanche Brotherton ("The Introduction of Characters by Name in the Metamorphoses of Apuleius," *Classical Philology* 29 (1934) 36-52.

The present study considers each of the named characters, first delineating the description of the character as given by Apuleius, then tracing the occurrences of the name elsewhere, thirdly giving the etymology of the name, and finally considering its appropriateness. This order of treatment has been followed closely in each instance. Excluded from consideration are the names of deities, prominent historical characters, and mythological and geographical names. Thus all the participants in the Cupid and Psyche episode are omitted from discussion, as well as such deities as Isis and Osiris, and Caesar, to whom the ass tried to appeal (3,29,8), and who was also mentioned in the story of Haemon and Plotina in the seventh book. Such exclusion has been made because these names already have connotations apart from their use in the story.

The names are taken up in alphabetical order, an order which is maintained regardless of the importance of the character, or his order of appearance in the action, or of the category to which he belongs. All line-citations, except where otherwise stated, are made from R. Helm's 1931 Teubner edition of the *Metamorphoses.*

In some cases it has been necessary to determine, as nearly as possible, the form of the name as Apuleius probably wrote it, in order to decide the appropriateness with greater accuracy. In such problems use has been made of palaeographical information, the evidence of other literature, epigraph-

ical records, and any other material whatsoever that might cast light upon the question. Whenever possible, examples of the name in inscriptions have been examined, in order to prove that the form was taken from everyday life, as well as to establish the validity of the spelling. Occasional examples in other literature, although not so trustworthy as evidence, have also been noted.

Several types of appropriate names can be distinguished. The first and most obvious of all is that of the literal etymology of the designation applied directly to the person. It may be suitable to him either as an individual, or as a type. An individual may bear a name which is in keeping with his peculiar role, or with his personal appearance, or with striking features of his character, as expressed by his actions, by his own words, or by description on the part of others. Or, again, his name may be appropriate to the occupation in which he is engaged, or to the social class of which he is a member. There are certain types of names which are descriptive of slaves in general, to courtesans, to professional men, or to other classes. A name may be appropriate not because of its original meaning, but due to some association of ideas because a famous person once possessed it. The name may be significant only as a type borne by a freeborn citizen of the aristocratic and wealthy classes. There are notable examples, in addition, of names appropriate by antiphrasis, or contradiction, when they mean exactly the opposite of the actual character or behavior of their possessors; in such cases considerable irony and humor are introduced by this contrast.

The following general results will indicate the practice of Apuleius. With exclusions as stated above, an examination of the remaining 52 names in the *Metamorphoses* has shown that each of them is appropriate in one or more ways, with the single exception of Babulus. This name, it is believed, is in reality a common noun or adjective. Ten of the names are appropriate by antiphrasis, 39 by etymology, and seventeen as suggesting a type. Several of the names are appropriate in more than one way. Alcimus, Arete, and Meroe fulfill the requirements for appropriateness both by antiphrasis and,

surprisingly enough, etymology. Apollonius, Asinius, Byrrhena, Mithras, Myrtilus, and Plutarch are appropriate by etymology and by type, while Pythias is appropriate in all three ways.

Clytius has been classified, although considerable evidence has been adduced to demonstrate that this name has resulted merely from a misreading of the manuscripts. Reasons have also been advanced for the restoration of the form Hypataeus instead of Hypatofilus. Philesitherus, too, by the available testimony, should be read Philetaerus, although either form is etymologically appropriate. The classification of Thelyphron depends upon the point of view. The usual opinion in the past has been that the name was appropriate by etymology; but the writer has attempted to show that it is in reality appropriate by antiphrasis, unless the form Theleron, which seems somewhat more satisfactory, be read. Finally, some arguments have been advanced for reading Tachos instead of Zatchlas, although in this instance the name classification remains the same.

An attempt has been made to associate the members of the same story by footnote references, by a summary of the occurrences of names in the introduction, and by numerous allusions to related names in the summation of a given role. There is in addition a discussion of a group of names professionally appropriate, of robber names, and of names which serve as "passport credentials."

Apuleius used appropriate names of fairly common occurrence, almost, if not entirely, without exception. He usually substituted a name of his own invention for one which occurred in the Greek epitome, *Lucius or the Ass.* Forty-two of the names used were Greek in origin, seven were Latin. One, Fotis, may be either Greek or Latin, depending on the etymology. Meroe and Zatchlas are Egyptian, while Mithras is Persian in source.

VITA

Harris Livingston Russell was born June 3, 1908 in Brocton, N. Y. He attended the public schools of Brocton, Collins Center, and Little Falls; all in New York State, and was graduated from Little Falls High School in June, 1925. He accepted a scholarship at Hamilton College, but was compelled by the death of his father, Principal Harold John Russell, to obtain full-time employment and thereby contribute to the support of his mother. In 1934-5 Mr. Russell attended night school at the Gowanda Collegiate Center and was awarded a fellowship from that school to the University of Oklahoma. He was graduated from Oklahoma in 1937, with honors in Classics. He was University Scholar in Classics at Oklahoma in the year 1937-8, and Assistant in Classics in 1938-9. In 1939 he received the Master of Arts degree from this same institution, having written his thesis in Latin on the subject: *De Lucreti Ironia.* In the fall of 1939 he entered the University of Illinois where, in addition to his studies, he served for one year as Custodian of the Classical Museum and Secretary of the Department of Classics. The following year he became Assistant in Classics, a position he held until the close of the summer session in 1942. In August, 1941, he married Miss Helen Mary Ford, of Chicago, also a student at the University of Illinois. Mr. Russell was employed by the James Milliken University as Instructor in Classics in August, 1942, but the imminence of military service compelled him to relinquish this post. He obtained a deferment to the first of December in order to complete this dissertation, and expects to join the Signal Corps of the United States Army in the early part of December. Mr. Russell is a member of Phi Beta Kappa (Oklahoma 1937), and of Eta Sigma Phi (Oklahoma 1936). Graduate study has been done under Professors P. W. Harsh, O. W. Reinmuth, and H. L. Stow at Oklahoma, and Professors H. V. Canter, G. E. Mylonas, W. A. Oldfather, and B. E. Perry at Illinois.

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